UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/551,371	07/31/2006	Mark Wells	P 1147.15003	3107

7590 08/01/2007

Garth Janke
Birdwell & Janke
Suite 1400
1100 SW Sixth Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

EXAMINER	
MAYO III, WILLIAM H	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2831	
MAIL DATE	**DELIVERY MODE**
08/01/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/551,371	WELLS, MARK	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	William H. Mayo III	2831	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *30-54* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *30-54* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *November 13, 2006*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in PCT Application No. PCT/AU04/00398, filed on March 29, 2004.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement filed November 13, 2006 has been submitted for consideration by the Office. It has been placed in the application file and the information referred to therein has been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 30-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tindall (Pat Num 6,039,604). Tindall discloses an electrical connection device (Figs 3-11) for connecting a multi-core machine cable (not shown) to a suitable electrical device (not shown), wherein the cable (not shown) is of the type having an insulated cores surrounded by earth potential layers (Col 3, lines 34-55). Specifically, with respect to

claim 30, Tindall discloses an electrical connection device (41, Figs 5-7) comprising: an insulating body (2), a plurality of insulating sleeves (45) extending into the body (2); a plurality of core coupling means (42), each being at least in part positioned in a respective insulating sleeve (45), each core coupling means (13) being connectable to a respective core of the machine cable (not shown) and having a first contact surface (first end) for connecting to a terminal of the suitable other electrical device so as to provide electrical connections of the machine cable with the suitable other electrical device (Col 5, lines 26-34); and a plurality of spaced apart earth coupling means (51) surrounding at least a portion of respective insulating sleeves (45), each earth coupling means (51) being connectable to a respective earth- potential layer of the machine cable (not shown) and having a second contact surface (second end) for connecting to an earth potential terminal of the suitable other electrical device (not shown), wherein the core coupling means are earth-potential screened from one another so that a continuation of individual earth-connections to the suitable other electrical connection device is possible (Col 5, lines 25-34). With respect to claim 31, Tindall discloses that each core coupling means (42) is surrounded by a respective insulating sleeve (45) which is surrounded along its length by a respective earth-potential coupling means (51) which typically comprises a conductive layer (Fig 4). With respect to claim 32, Tindall discloses that within the body (2) , each core and the respective core coupling means (42) are, in use, surrounded by a respective conductive layer or the earth potential layer of the respective core (Col 5, lines 25-34). With respect to claim 33, Tindall discloses each insulating sleeve (45) is surrounded along its length by a respective

conductive layer (51, Fig 4). With respect to claim 34, Tindall discloses that the core coupling means (42) comprises a pin (41, Col 5, lines 25-26). With respect to claim 35, Tindall discloses that the core coupling means (42) may comprises a socket (Fig 6). With respect to claim 36, Tindall discloses that the device (Fig 7) may comprise ring-like contacts (49) which comprise the second contact surfaces (second end), each ring-like contact (49) being positioned at a respective one of the apertures (46) and electrically contactable with respective ones of individual conductive layers which the earth coupling means (Col 5, lines 41-49). With respect to claim 37, Tindall discloses having ring-like contacts (49) which comprise the second contact surface (second end) , each ring-like contact (49) being positioned within a respective one of the apertures (46) and electrically contactable with respective ones of the individual conductive layers (Col 5, lines 41-49). With respect to claim 38, Tindall discloses that the insulating sleeves (45) are provided in form of tubes (Fig 6). With respect to claim 39, Tindall discloses that each tube has a thread at one end (53, Col 5, lines 53-63). With respect to claim 40, Tindall discloses the insulating sleeves (45) are provided in form of tubes having a thread at one end and wherein the ring- like contacts (49) are provided in form of nuts (50) that are receivable by the threads of the insulating tubes (45, Col 5, lines 50-52). With respect to claim 41, Tindall discloses the insulating sleeves (45) are provided in form of tubes having a thread at one end and wherein the ring- like contacts (49) are provided in form of nuts (50) that are receivable by the threads of the insulating tubes (45, Col 5, lines 50-52). With respect to claim 42, Tindall discloses that each conductive layer (51) is in electrical contact with a respective nut (50, Col 5, lines 50-

52). With respect to claim 43, Tindall discloses that each nut (50) has an electrical conductive surface on its thread (Col 5, lines 53-63). With respect to claim 44, Tindall discloses that each nut (50) is composed of an electrically conductive material)Cp; 5, lines 53-63). With respect to claim 45, Tindall discloses the electrical connection device (21) is connected to the suitable other electrical device (not shown), a coupling means (2) of the suitable other electrical device is positioned at least in part within a respective one of the insulating sleeves of the electrical connection device (Fig 6). With respect to claim 46, Tindall discloses that the three-core machine cable (not shown) and the electrical connection device (not shown) comprises three apertures and three insulating tubes associated with the apertures (Col 3, lines 34-55). With respect to claims 47-48, Tindall discloses that the exterior surface comprises both metallic (66) and electrically insulating material (67, Col 5, lines 61-63). With respect to claim 49, Tindall discloses that the body (2) comprises a polymeric material (i.e. plastic material, Col 5, lines 25-34). With respect to claim 50, Tindall discloses each insulating sleeve (45) being surrounded by a plurality of conductive layer (46), which are electrically isolated so that, in use, a plurality of separate earth potential screens is established (Col 5, lines 35-41). With respect to claims 51-52, Tindall discloses that the device (Fig 4) is capable of delivery more than 1 MW of power (i.e. all of the claimed invention is disclosed in the prior art and therefore the prior art is capable of disclosing the same characteristics). With respect to claim 53, Tindall discloses an electrical connection device (41, Figs 5-7) comprising: an insulating body (2), a plurality of insulating sleeves (45) extending into the body (2); a plurality of core coupling means (42), each being at least in part

positioned in a respective insulating sleeve (45), each core coupling means (13) being connectable to a respective core of the machine cable (not shown) and having a first contact surface (first end) for connecting to a terminal of the suitable other electrical device so as to provide electrical connections of the machine cable with the suitable other electrical device (Col 5, lines 26-34); and a plurality of spaced apart earth coupling means (51) surrounding at least a portion of respective insulating sleeves (45), each earth coupling means (51) being connectable to a respective earth- potential layer of the machine cable (not shown) and having a second contact surface (second end) for connecting to an earth potential terminal of the suitable other electrical device (not shown), wherein the core coupling means are earth-potential screened from one another so that a continuation of individual earth-connections to the suitable other electrical connection device is possible (Col 5, lines 25-34). With respect to claim with respect to claim 54, Tindall discloses an electrical connection device (41, Figs 5-7) comprising: an insulating body (2), a plurality of insulating sleeves (45) extending into the body (2); a plurality of core coupling means (42), each being at least in part positioned in a respective insulating sleeve (45), each core coupling means (13) being connectable to a respective core of the machine cable (not shown) and having a first contact surface (first end) for connecting to a terminal of the suitable other electrical device so as to provide electrical connections of the machine cable with the suitable other electrical device (Col 5, lines 26-34); and a plurality of spaced apart earth coupling means (51) surrounding at least a portion of respective insulating sleeves (45), each earth coupling means (51) being connectable to a respective earth- potential layer of the

machine cable (not shown) and having a second contact surface (second end) for connecting to an earth potential terminal of the suitable other electrical device (not shown), wherein the core coupling means are earth-potential screened from one another so that a continuation of individual earth-connections to the suitable other electrical connection device is possible (Col 5, lines 25-34).

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. They are Hunter et al (Pat Num 5,280,254), Bellemon (Pat Num 6,129,586), Elkhatib et al (Pat Num 6,077,122), Ferrill et al (Pat Num 6,045,389), Paterek (Pat Num 5,580,282), Williams (Pat Num 2,860,226), Hewitson (Pat Num 3,249,907), and LaCoy et al (Pat Num 6,042,424), all of which disclose various electrical connection devices.

Communication

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William H. Mayo III whose telephone number is (571)-272-1978. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am-6:00 pm (alternate Fridays off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean Reichard can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 31. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

William H. Mayo III
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2831

WHM III
July 17, 2007